

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2118

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11236

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, UR

SUBJ: CONDITIONAL ENTRANTS: IKONOMOU AND BUBARIS FAMILIES

ROME FOR INS

SECSTATE FOR EUR/SOV AND VO

REF: ROME 9675, MOSCOW 10955

1. THIS EMBASSY ROUTINELY REQUESTS EMBASSY ATHENS TO MAKE BACKGROUND CHECKS WITH GREEK AUTHORITIES IN GREEK REFUGEE CASES PROCESSED HERE. IN CASES AT HAND, NLL INFO OBTAINED FROM GREEK AUTHORITIES ON APOSTOLIS AND HELEN BUBARIS SUBMITTED TO DEPT. FOR ADVISORY OPINION IN MOSCOW 5167 AND ALL INFO ON AFANASIS AND KOULA IKONOMOU SUBMITTED IN MOSCOW 3514. (COPIES OF BOTH TELEGRAMS POUCHED TO INS/ROME SEPT. 12.) FAVORABLE RULINGS BY DEPT. REPORTED IN STATE 090797 AND 061921, RESPECTIVELY. ALL INFO FROM GREEK AUTHORITIES IN THESE CASES WAS FURNISHED CONFIDENTIALLY TO EMBASSY ATHENS.

2. DEPRIVATION OF GREEK CITIZENSHIP BY PRESENT GREEK REGIME AND DESIGNATION OF "WANTED" IS TYPICAL IN CASES OF ADULT MALE REFUGEES PROCESSED MOSCOW FOR WHOM GOG BACKGROUND CHECKS HAVE
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BEEN REQUESTED. ALTHOUGH SUCH INFORMATION IS OF COURSE TAKEN

INTO ACCOUNT, DEPT INDICATED IN CASE OF JANNIS KHRISTOS GOGOS THAT SUCH BACKGROUND INFORMATION SHOULD NOT RPT NOT ALWAYS BE CONSIDERED AUTHORITATIVE AND USG MUST REACH ITS OWN EVALUATIONS AND CONSLUSIONS (STATE 072827 OF APRIL 27, 1972; INS ROME ON DISTRIBUTION).

3. CONCERNING QUESTION OF WHETHER SUBJECTS MAY BE "DEDICATED TO THE COMMUNIST CAUSE," DEPARTMENT (9 5-53 176558) AND EMBASSY MOSCOW EXPERIENCE IN SUCH CASES IS THAT MANY GREEK REFUGEES NOW RESIDENT USSR WERE FORCIBLY EVACUATED BY PARTISAN FORCES WHICH CONTROLLED MUCH OF NORTHERN GREECE DURING CIVIL WAR. GREEK AUTHORITIES IN FACT ACKNOWLEDGED IN CASE OF AFANASIS IKONOMOU THAT "DURING THE OCCUPATION, BEING FORCED, SUBJECT JOINED THE EPON AND LATER THE ELAS" (MOSCOW 3514). AS REPORTED MOSCOW 10955, GREEK CONSUL IN MOSCOW CONFIRMED TO AMCONSOFFS IN CONFIDENCE THAT MANY OF THE APPROXIMATELY 12,000 GREEK CIVIL WAR REFUGEES IN USSR WERE INNOCENTS FORCIBLY EVACUATED TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES BY THE PARTISANS. GREEK CONSUL ALSO INDICATED THAT THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING FORCED TO LIVE IN USSR HAS MADE GREAT MAJORITY OF THESE GREEKS BITTERLY ANTI-COMMUNIST. (THIS INFO IN MOSCOW A-118; COPY POUCHED TO INS ROME SEPT 12.) ON BASIS SUCH SUPPLEMENTARY INFO, AS WELL AS INFO DERIVED ON SUBJECTS FROM OTHER GREEK REFUGEES PROCESSED IN MOSCOW AND FACTS THAT SUBJECTS DID NOT RPT NOT JOIN CPSU OR OTHERWISE DEMONSTRATE POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN USSR, EMBASSY AND DEPT FOUND SUBJECTS' OWN STATEMENTS OF DISDAIN FOR COMMUNISM AND THEIR CLAIM THAT COERCION ACCOUNTED FOR THEIR PREVIOUS PARTISAN AFFILIATIONS TO BE FULLY PLAUSIBLE. IN EMBASSY VIEW THE FACT THAT SUBJECTS APPLIED FOR PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE FROM USSR TO US FACE GENERAL SOVIET HOSTILITY TO SUCH ACTIONS AND WIDESPREAD NOTION IN USSR THAT TO SEEK TO EMIGRATE TO CAPITALIST COUNTRY IS AN ANTI-SOVIET AND ANTI-COMMUNIST ACT IS ALSO SUPPORTIVE OF THEIR STATEMENT THAT THEY ARE ANTI-COMMUNIST.

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